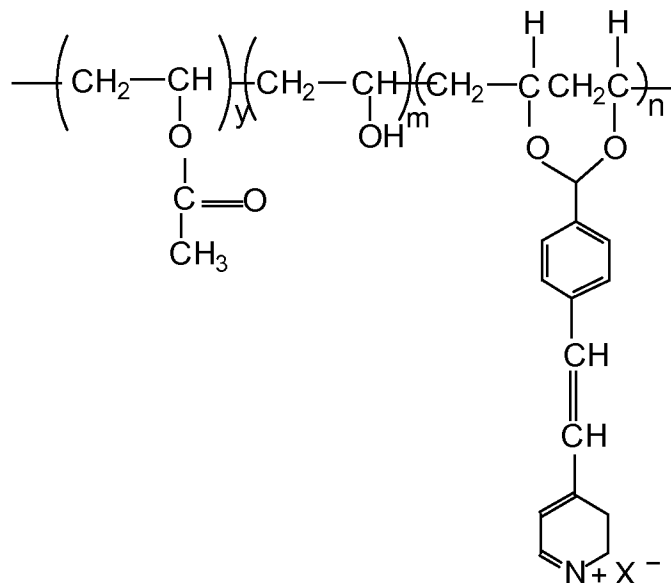


Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend the specification on page 2, lines 33-34 to page 3, lines 1-4 as follows:

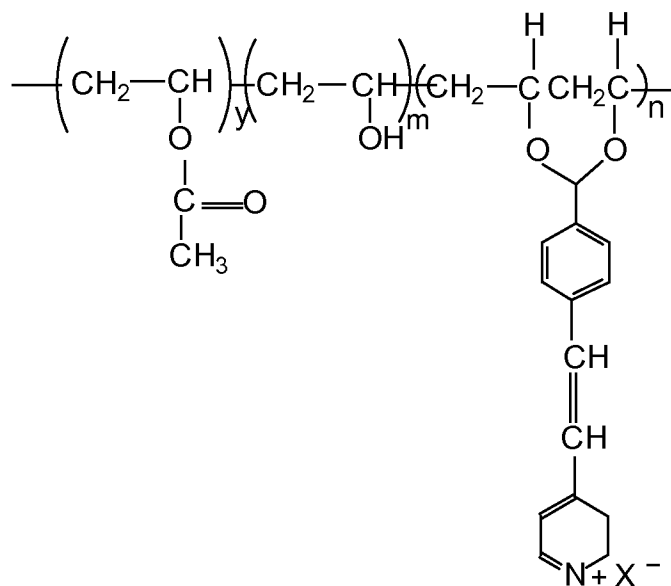
In one embodiment, the crosslinkable polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol modified with styrylpyridinium groups having the following general chemical structure:



wherein y , m and n are positive numbers and X is an anion.

Please amend the specification on page 5, lines 1-8 as follows:

A more specific example of a useful oxygen-insensitive crosslinkable polymer is one in which the styrylpyridinium groups were added to a polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) by a condensation reaction which formed an acetal linkage. The compound has the following general structure:



wherein y , m and n are positive numbers, and X is an anion.